

# **Future Vision: Defining the Legacy for Public Transportation for the Next 20 Years**

**Guest Speakers  
September 10, 2013**



**Katy Taylor**

Katy Taylor has recently been appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for Strategic, Enterprise and Employee Services. Katy is a member of the agency's executive team and is responsible for a diverse group of divisions including Human Resources and Safety, Equal Opportunity, Information Technology, Strategic Assessment and Performance Analysis, Communications, and Risk Management. She joined WSDOT in 2007 and has served as the Director of the Public Transportation Division and the Office of Human Resources and Safety.

Katy graduated from Gonzaga University and received her Executive Leadership Certification from Seattle University. Prior to joining WSDOT, Katy worked for the Weyerhaeuser Company and Spokane County's Division of Engineering and Roads in transportation related roles.

Katy lives in Olympia with her husband, Mark Hahn. She likes to travel, spend time with her extended family, and attend Broadway musicals.



**Rick Krochalis**

Richard (Rick) F. Krochalis has been the Regional Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Region 10 office in Seattle, Washington since May 2002. In this position, Mr. Krochalis is responsible for the administration of FTA's capital, operating and planning grant programs in the four-state Western region, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

Prior to joining the FTA, Mr. Krochalis served as director of design, construction and land use for the city of Seattle. In that position, he improved the performance of Seattle's primary regulatory agency, which is responsible for land use and construction permitting, environmental review and

enforcement activities. Under his direction, the agency implemented a program for neighborhood design review and provided improved customer service and quality oversight for Seattle's fast-growing urban environment.

From 1972 until 1992, Mr. Krochalis served as an officer in the U.S. Navy in a series of facilities construction and management positions, including program manager for the Navy homeport at Everett, WA, and planning and real estate director for the Navy's West Coast operations.

Mr. Krochalis obtained a master's degree from Harvard University in city and regional planning and a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in environmental systems engineering. He is a member of Seattle Federal Executive Board, the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Urban Land Institute.



**Dan O'Neal** Commission Chairman,  
Mason County

Dan is on the Board of Directors of Greenbrier Companies (GBX), a publicly traded railroad car leasing and manufacturing company. He has owned and operated transportation and software businesses. Dan has actively participated in

efforts to gain private and public sector support for improved freight transportation infrastructure. He is a member of the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council. Prior to joining a law firm in 1980 he was Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He also served as Transportation Counsel to the Senate Commerce Committee chaired by Senator Warren Magnuson. Dan was appointed by Governor Locke in 2003 and reappointed by Governor Gregoire in 2009. His term expires June 30, 2015.



**Joni Earl**

Joni Earl joined Sound Transit in October 2000, as Chief Operating Officer. Her prior positions include more than eight years as Deputy County Executive for Snohomish County, WA, reporting to the County Executive. She also served as City Manager of Mill Creek, WA, from 1987 to 1992 where she was responsible for all city operations. Prior positions include Director of Internal Management and Chief Fiscal Officer for Kitsap County, WA. Earl received a BA in Business from Washington State University in 1975. She completed her MBA from University of Puget Sound in 1982. She has completed executive programs at the University of Colorado and Harvard University.

As Chief Executive Officer, Earl has overall responsibility and authority to direct and manage the Sound Transit agency.



## **Kevin Desmond**

Kevin Desmond is the General Manager of King County Metro Transit serving the Seattle Metropolitan Region. King County Metro, has about 4,600 employees, transports over 115 million people, and operates over 1,400 buses, 1000 vanpools, and about 400 paratransit vans. Metro has pioneered an array of operational, fleet, technology and market development initiatives over the years and has a long-standing commitment to progressive environmental policies and investments.

Prior to his position at Metro Transit, Kevin was the Pierce Transit Vice President of Operations and Development. Desmond managed both day-to-day operations as well as policy and service development functions for eight divisions within that organization. Those duties have included managing a staff of 640 employees responsible for local and commuter transit services, paratransit services, safety and training

Prior to joining Pierce Transit in 1996, Desmond was Chief of Operations Planning for New York City Transit, which included bus and subway operations. In the late

1980's and early 1990's, he served as the deputy director of Mayor Koch's Transportation Office and as assistant commissioner of administration for the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Mr. Desmond holds a Master's degree in public administration from New York University. He was selected to participate in the first International Transit Studies mission to learn about advances in mass transit in several European cities. He was chosen to be part of the inaugural Leadership American Public Transportation Association (APTA) class.

Desmond, his wife and two children reside in Puyallup, Washington.



## **E. Susan Meyer**

E. Susan Meyer is the Chief Executive Officer of Spokane Transit Authority, a position she's held since 2005. Prior to joining STA, Susan worked for a university, an economic development organization, a pipeline company and a global telecommunications manufacturer. Susan earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's degree in

business (MBA) from Eastern Washington University.

Susan is the chair of the Washington State Transit Association and was recently elected to a national board that selects and funds public transportation research. Her local civic work includes serving on the following:

- The Mayor's Economic Roundtable
- The Downtown Spokane Partnership Board
- The Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
- The Dean's Advisory Board at the EWU College of Business & Public Affairs
- Honorary Commander's Program at Fairchild Air Force Base

She also served a six year term on the board of Life Services of Spokane and is a frequent MC and speaker at their events. Susan has one daughter, Heather, who is married to Gary, a Navy officer. They have three daughters and live in San Diego.



## David Moseley

David Moseley is Assistant Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Ferries Division. David is an experienced leader who has dedicated his 35-year career to public service.

David graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and has a Master's of Divinity from Golden Gate Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California. Prior to joining Washington State Ferries, David served as a City Manager for three Washington state cities – Federal Way, Ellensburg and Steilacoom – and as Director of the City of Seattle's Department of Community Development. In February 2008, David was appointed to the position of WSDOT Assistant Secretary for the Ferries Division.

David is focused on four primary goals for the ferry system – 1) completing the new ferry construction program, 2) containing costs, 3) implementing innovations in a cost effective manner to improve ferry operations, and 4) listening to customers and ferry- served communities about how best to improve ferry service.

David lives in the Pioneer Square area of Seattle with his wife, Ann Fennessey. David enjoys playing golf, reading and cooking.



## Shefali Ranganathan

As the Director of Programs at Transportation Choices Coalition, Shefali coordinates the education work and helps

build coalitions with communities who depend on transit.

Shefali works on a range of transportation policy issues at the state, regional and local level. She coordinates a broad coalition of social justice, immigrant and refugee, public health, affordable housing, student, and senior groups working on transportation equity. Shefali has served on several regional and local advisory committees on transportation issues working to create more transportation options.

Prior to TCC, she spent time working on federal transportation policy. She spent three and a half years as a Policy Associate with the Environmental and Energy Study Institute in Washington DC, and was involved with the reauthorization of a previous federal transportation bill, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users ([SAFETEA-LU](#)).

Shefali has a Masters in Environmental Science from American University. She loves traveling and enjoys trying out transit systems with her husband around the world.



## **Charles Rutkowski**

Charlie has more than 38 years of experience in community transportation planning, evaluation, management,

operations and financing. As the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Assistant Director, he manages CTAA's Rural Passenger Transportation Technical Assistance Program which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has spent the better part of eight years traveling the country, providing hands-on support to communities from Machias, Maine to Kodiak, Alaska.

Charlie has had direct involvement in the development and implementation of transit service and facility in over 200 projects in 43 states. Among these projects are several which have become national models, such as coordination projects in Lee County and Chatham County, North Carolina as well as innovative transit facility projects in Hartford, Vermont and Clarksdale, Mississippi. In all projects, Charlie has focused upon creative financial packaging to ensure that projects are implemented.

Before joining CTAA, Charlie was the director of a coordinated rural transit system in Chenango County, New York. Previously he was a transportation analyst with the Syracuse, New York Metropolitan Planning Organization where he planned and developed specialized transportation programs in urban, suburban and rural environments. He is a graduate of Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. Charlie lives in West Springfield, Virginia with his wife, daughter and three cats.